Five-Year Forest and Range Resource Program

Province of British Columbia

FIVE-YEAR FOREST AND RANGE RESOURCE PROGRAM

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in accordance with
Section 9 of the Ministry of Forests Act

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This Report presents the Province's Five-Year Forest and Range Resource Program for the fiscal years 1984-85 through 1988-89. This is the fifth Program submitted to the Legislative Assembly under Section 9 of the Ministry of Forests Act.

The priorities for the Ministry of Forests set last year remain unchanged: to reduce the size of the Ministry, to increase the role of the private sector, and to aid, enhance and support the economic recovery in the forest sector to the greatest possible degree. The Program priorities of the Ministry continue to be: to maintain the allowable annual cut of timber, to restock denuded forest lands promptly, and to hold losses from wildfires to acceptable levels.

The second Forest and Range Resource Analysis is underway and a report will be presented to the Lieutenant Governor in Council in September, 1984, as required by Section 8 of the Ministry of Forests Act. This Analysis, along with a report describing Five-Year Program alternatives, will assist government in its task of developing policies and programs to manage the Province's forest and range resource assets.

Funding for future years is under continuing review. The results of the review will depend particularly on the future state of provincial and national finances but will be influenced by the Resource Analysis and Program alternatives. Alternative funding mechanisms will be examined, as will approaches which will further increase the roles and responsibilities of licensees in carrying out approved activities.

The second Resource Analysis and a comprehensive Five-Year Program will be laid before the Legislative Assembly in the first session in 1985.

PART 2: FIVE-YEAR FOREST AND RANGE RESOURCE PROGRAM

In this part, general information pertaining to each of the Ministry's Programs is presented.

Funding for 1984-85 will be achieved through several sources: the annual appropriation (budget) which will be allocated to the Ministry by the Legislative Assembly, credits to stumpage payable by licensees in accordance with the provisions of Section 88 of the Forest Act, and federal government contributions through cost-sharing agreements.

Forecast expenditure for the Forest and Range Resource Program for 1984-85 is presented in Annex 1. For comparative purposes only, figures shown for the 1983-84 Program have been restated to be consistent with the recent presentation of the 1984-85 Estimates. Schedule A of the Estimates gives a detailed reconciliation of voted expenditures.

MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Management Program

The Management Program provides executive direction and control for the whole Ministry.

A new agreement with the forest industry is evolving and a number of the supervisory functions now performed by Ministry staff will change to an auditing function as that evolution takes place during 1984-85. This will involve the transfer of certain management responsibilities to licensees of certain forest tenures. It is expected that this process will result in efficiencies in the ongoing management of provincial forest lands.

The Management Program spans all three levels of the Ministry. At headquarters in Victoria, it includes the activities and expenditure of the Executive of the Ministry, Information Services Branch and Strategic Studies Branch. At each of the Forest Region offices, the Program includes the regional manager and regional staff managers. At each of the Forest District offices, it includes the district managers, operations superintendents and support services supervisors.

Finance and Administration Program

The Finance and Administration Program provides the basic infrastructure for the whole Ministry.

The overall aim of this Program in 1984-85 is to provide essential support services with maximum efficiency. For example, a number of administrative procedures such as the Accounts Payable, Payroll and Management Information Reporting functions, will be streamlined, and where possible, automated during 1984-85.

At headquarters in Victoria, the Program includes the activities and expenditures of Financial Services, Personnel Services, System Services, and Technical and Administrative Services Branches. At each of the Forest Region offices, it includes administrative, personnel, training, and technical support officers. At the Forest District level, the Program includes clerical, drafting and service technicians.

Harvesting Program

The objective of the Harvesting Program is to make timber available to the forest industry in a manner which reflects provincial forest resource objectives and ensures that the financial interests of the Crown are realized.

The overall goal for the Harvesting Program is to provide for a total provincial timber harvest of 75 million m^3 per year, including 4.9 million m^3 per year under the SBEP (Small Business Enterprise Program).

For the SBEP, a government initiative to stimulate greater economic opportunities, additional financing will be provided for road construction and basic silviculture in connection with small business enterprise projects sponsored by the Ministry.

Following the next Resource Analysis, AACs (Allowable Annual Cuts) throughout the Province will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

Many of the immediate benefits attributable to the Province's forest resources arise from logging operations and the production and sale of forest products by private industry. The Ministry places a high priority on the Harvesting Program to support industry's efforts to respond competitively to national and international market demands.

At Victoria, the Harvesting Program includes the activities and expenditure of Valuation, Timber Management, Planning, Engineering and Inventory Branches. At each of the Forest Region offices, it includes harvest planning and coordination personnel. At the Forest District level, the Program includes timber, engineering and inventory resource officers.

Silviculture Program

The objectives of the Silviculture Program are to restock denuded forest land and to improve the value and productivity of forest stands.

The realization of long-term benefits from the Province's forest resources is tied directly to the quality and extent of the Silviculture Program. The Ministry places a high priority on achieving prompt and efficient restocking of denuded forest lands through a mix of natural and artificial means, as described in previous reports.

Over the five-year period, planting (basic silviculture and backlog planting) increases each year to 160 million seedlings in 1988-89. If negotiations with the federal government for a jointly-funded backlog agreement are successful, further major increases will occur.

Discussions are taking place with the federal government to secure a one-year extension of the IFMSA (Intensive Forest Management Subsidiary Agreement), which is otherwise scheduled to expire March 31, 1984. Accordingly, sufficient provincial funds are included in the 1984-85 Silviculture Program for a jointly-funded extension of the Agreement.

The extension of IFMSA will be used to begin work toward a significant backlog planting program, funded through a new agreement between the federal and provincial governments. Negotiations toward that new agreement continue and the extension of IFMSA will serve well to bridge the transition.

At headquarters in Victoria, the Program includes the activities and expenditure of Silviculture Branch. At each Forest Region, it includes the silviculture officers and, at the Forest District level, includes silviculture resource officers. Nurseries and seed orchards located throughout the Province are also included.

Research Program

The Research Program performs a service function to forest and range resource management programs by providing improved knowledge and methods for achieving objectives, based on scientific investigation.

The Research Program is directed primarily at the biophysical aspects of forest and range management on Crown forest land. It encompasses applied research, technical consulting services, research extension and collaboration on operational testing of applied research results. This is achieved through the Research Branch in Victoria and research officers at the Forest Region offices.

A number of efficiencies will be realized in the Research Program in 1984-85 by focusing effort on critical knowledge or information gaps.

Forest Protection Program

The objective of the Forest Protection Program is to protect the forest and range resources of the Province from damage by wildfire and pests, such as insects and diseases.

The major goals of the Forest Protection Program are to keep the area burned by wildfire below 69 000 ha and to maintain the timber loss below 2.57 million m^3 each year. Efforts to increase efficiency in achieving these goals will be continued through the expanding role of industry, introduction of technological improvements, use of labour-saving devices, and concentration on essential program components.

The Forest Protection Program provides fire and pest management services directed toward the reduction of timber losses and the maintenance of public and environmental values. The Program includes the activities and expenditures at Protection Branch in Victoria, protection officers at the Forest Region level, and protection resource officers at the Forest District offices.

Fire Suppression Program

The Fire Suppression Program provides fire-fighting services directed towards the control of wildfires. The Program is linked closely to, and supported by, the Forest Protection Program, but is managed and funded separately.

Range Management Program

The objective of the Range Management Program is to supply forage for domestic animals, while conserving the resource base so that future forage production will continue in a manner consistent with integrated use objectives for Crown land.

The major goal for the Range Management Program is to continue to provide 934,000 Animal Unit Months of forage to the ranching industry each year, and to do so with increased efficiency.

The Program includes the activities and expenditures at Range Management Branch in Victoria, range officers in Forest Region offices, and range resource officers at the Forest District level.

Recreation Management Program

The objectives of the Recreation Management Program, within the Ministry's integrated resource use framework, are to maintain and enhance recreational values and to provide a system of sites and trails to facilitate public recreational use of Crown forest land.

The overall aim for 1984-85 is to provide essential program services with maximum efficiency. In this regard, the highest priority will be to ensure that recreation values are effectively considered in development planning and implementation.

The Program includes activities and expenditures at the Recreation Management Branch in Victoria, recreation officers in the Forest Region offices, and recreation resource officers at the Forest District level.

ROLES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR

The Ministry sets objectives, determines policies, develops and implements programs in concert with the private sector. It also measures performance. On Crown forest lands, the private sector carries out contracted operations and treatments financed by the Government.

The Ministry's policy is to utilize the private sector wherever possible. This is accomplished through contracts financed through both budgetary funds and through Section 88.

The role of the private sector in implementing the Five-Year Program will increase in future years.

ANNEX 1: TOTAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

Programs	Forecast Expenditure 1983-84	1984-85
	- - - thousands of dollars - - -	
Minister's Office	164	156
Management	12,061	12,079
Finance & Administration	61,814	53,683
Harvesting	74,239	67,458
Silviculture	91,878	99,747
Research	8,663	7,804
Forest Protection	14,426	15,970
Fire Suppression	50,000	46,000
Range	4,688	4,715
Recreation	3,672	3,640
Sub-Total	321,605	311,252
IFMSA Extension[1]	-	5,500
TOTAL	321,605	316,752

1 A federal contribution of $5.5 million will be added to the Program in 1984-85 in the event that agreement is reached to extend IFMSA one year. This will bring forecast expenditures in the Silviculture Program to $105.2 million.